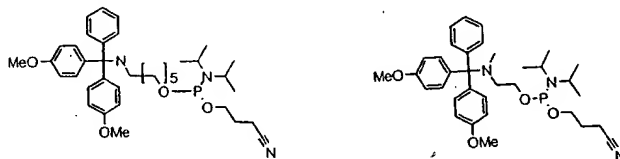


**CLEAN VERSION OF REWRITTEN OR ADDED CLAIMS
PURSUANT TO 37 CFR § 1.21 (c)(1)(i)**

Please cancel, without prejudice, claim 2.

Please enter the following amended claims:

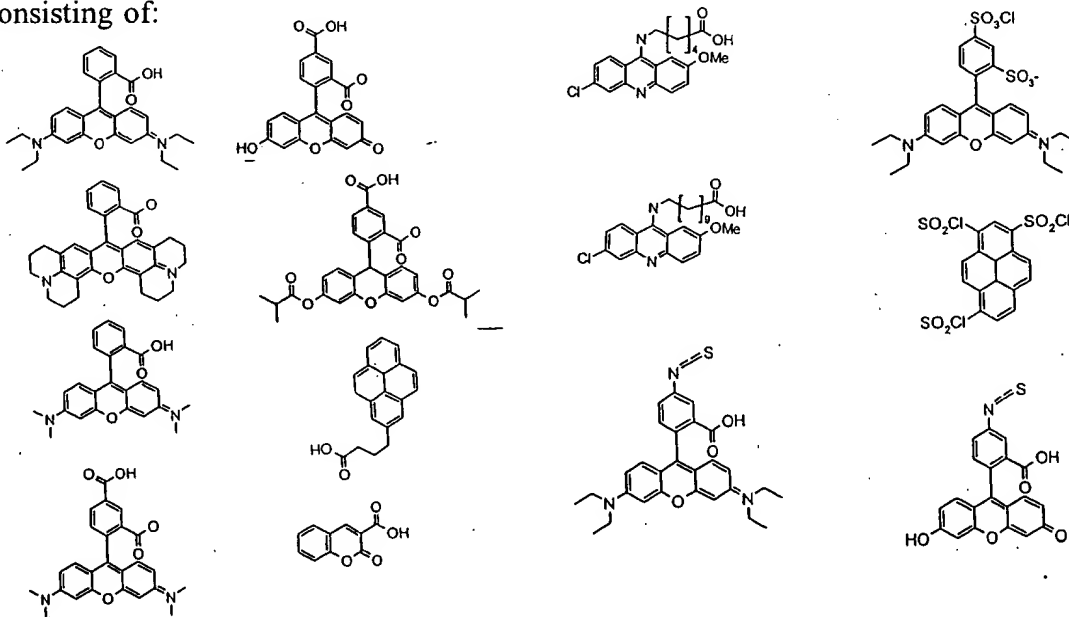
1. A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:
- a) providing: i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group,
- ii) a bifunctional linker arm selected from the group consisting of:



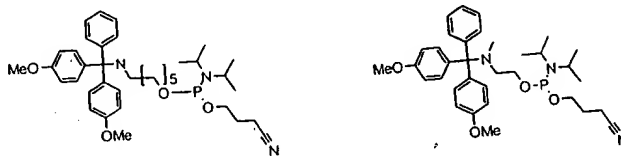
and iii) an *in situ* unactivated label;

- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, linker-oligonucleotide;
- c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label; and
- d) reacting said support-bound linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.

3. The method of Claim 1 wherein said activated label is selected from a group consisting of:



4. A method of labeling oligonucleotides, comprising:
- a) providing: i) a solid support-bound oligonucleotide comprising an amino group, ii) a bifunctional linker arm selected from the group consisting of:



and iii) an [activated label] *in situ* unactivated label;

- b) reacting said solid support-bound oligonucleotide with said bifunctional linker arm to produce a support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide;
- c) reacting said *in situ* unactivated label to create an *in situ* activated label;
- d) deprotecting the amino group of said support-bound, protected linker-oligonucleotide to produce a support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide, and;
- e) reacting said support-bound deprotected linker-oligonucleotide with said activated label to produce a labeled support-bound protected oligonucleotide.

Q2
Answer

CLEAN VERSION OF REWRITTEN OR ADDED PARAGRAPHS
PURSUANT TO 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(b)(1)(ii)

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 9, line 12 and ending on page 9, line 13 with the following rewritten paragraph:

- -Figure 2B shows one embodiment for the attachment of a linker phosphoramidite to an activated label.- -